



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

October 20, 2009

Mike Chrisman, Secretary
California Department of Resources
1416 9th Street, #1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Chrisman:

The recent Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) meetings in Eureka were extremely well attended. Commercial and sport fishermen, divers, surfers and environmental interests were all present, and have all shown a keen interest in this process. While these parties may have differing, or even opposing, concerns, they all deserve to know that their input and involvement will be meaningful, and will help to ensure an end-product that is guided by science and data. It is critical that the MLPA Initiative make every effort to earn the trust and confidence of all sectors of the effected local community. This requires time.

It is our understanding that the initial Marine Protected Area stakeholder arrays would have to be submitted by December 15th. Much of the pertinent data needed to inform these preliminary arrays is not yet available, and may not be available until January. Proceeding without this information would only result in a less scientifically-justifiable MPA network. Thus, we believe that this timeline as presented is unreasonable and is counter-productive to the goals that we have described, and that we trust you share.

As you are aware, Humboldt County is a leader of record in fisheries, water and agriculture protection. Our county has several important Coastal Tribes, as well as a large commercial and recreational fishing constituency. It would be difficult, if not impossible to convene these and other interested groups to generate any scientifically valid alternative in your described timeline. Further, assembling the various stakeholders in Mendocino and Del Norte Counties in that short period would be an incomprehensible task.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the present timeline for "Stakeholder Marine Protected Areas" be extended to March 15, 2010 or later. It is our belief that March would be the minimum time necessary for such a complicated task.

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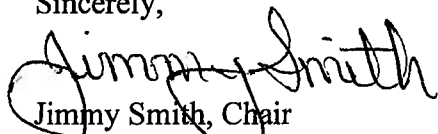
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RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA

It is our hope that the North Coast MLPA process will prove to be a model of transparency and cooperation, engaging the varied interests in a collaborative effort to arrive at appropriate, workable and science-based protections that are in the best interest of all parties. Extending the timeframe is critical for achieving this goal.

Thank you in advance for considering this essential Humboldt County request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jimmy" and last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

Jimmy Smith, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisor

JS:nlh

Cc: Senator Patricia Wiggins
Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro
California Fish & Game Commission
Del Norte County Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District
Wiyot Tribe
Yurok Tribe
Trinidad Rancheria
✓ Mr. Ken Wiseman